

A New Species of the Genus *Tropidophorus* (Reptilia: Lacertilia) from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China

YETANG WEN¹

¹Department of Biology, Guangxi Medical College, Nanning, Guangxi, China

Abstract. -A new species of *Tropidophorus* is described from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. This new species (*Tropidophorus guangxiensis*) is characterized by having an undivided postmental, that differs from *T. sinicus* which is divided. Though the postmental is undivided in *T. thai*, the new species is separated from *T. thai* in having an undivided frontal, which is similar to *T. sinicus*.

Key words: Reptilia, Lacertilia, Scincidae, *Tropidophorus*, China, Guangxi, taxonomy.



FIG. 1. Holotype of *Tropidophorus guangxiensis*, GMC 85-032 from Daming Hill, Wuming (23° 23' N 108° 30' E), Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

Tropidophorus guangxiensis sp. nov.
Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Holotype.—GMC 85-032 (Fig. 1), a juvenile from Daming Shan (23° 23' N

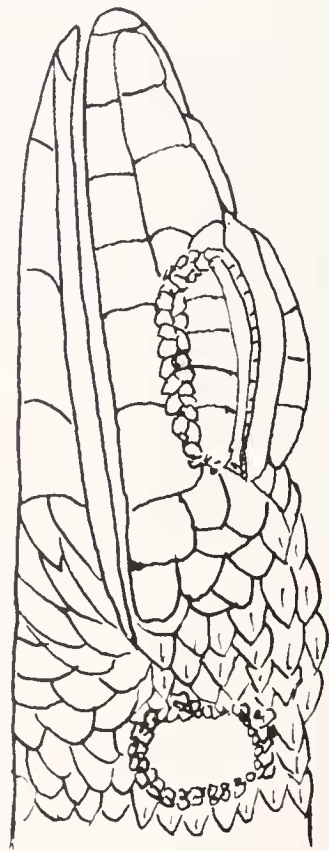


FIG. 2. Lateral scutellation of the head of the holotype (GMC 85-032).

108° 30' E), Wuming Xian (County), Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, altitude 1240 m (Fig. 6). The specimen was collected on June 15, 1985 by Zhaoxiang Yang and is deposited in Guangxi Medical College (GMC).

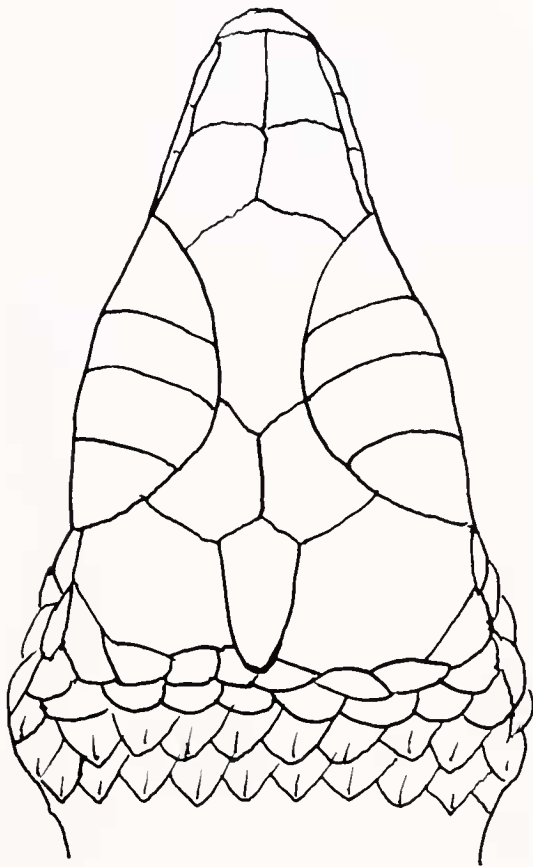


FIG. 3. Dorsal scutellation of the head of the holotype (GMC 85-032).

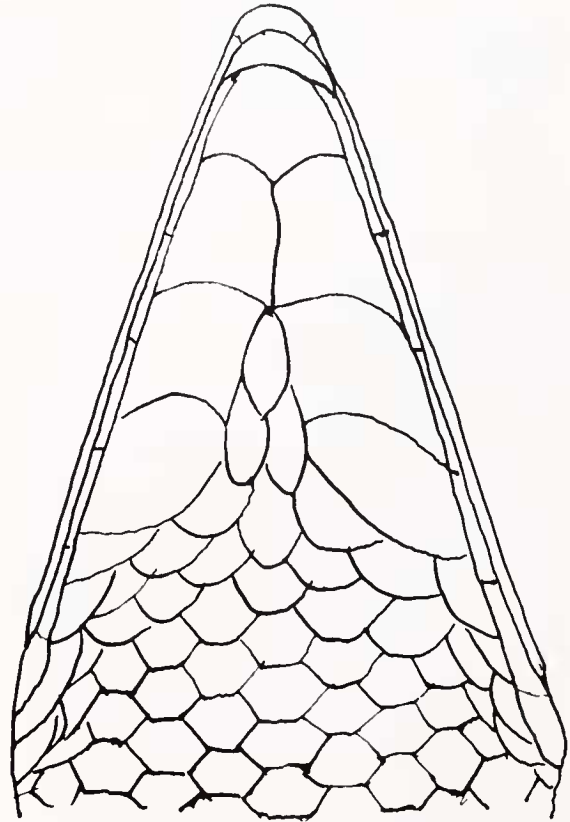


FIG. 4. Ventral scutellation of the head of the holotype (GMC 85-032).

Paratypes.—GMC 85-029 and GMC 85-030, two adult males collected with the holotype.

Diagnosis.—This new species closely resembles *Tropidophorus sinicus* Boettger, but differs from the latter by the following characters: a single postmental, head nearly triangle, interparietal separating parietals (Boulenger, 1887; Smith, 1935; Tian and Jiang, 1986).

Description of holotype.—A juvenile with a SVL of 39 mm and complete tail length of 46 mm. See Table 1 for the other measurements.

Head nearly triangle in dorsal aspect; snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above, rostral wider than high; upper head shields strongly striated; frontonasal divided medially into two

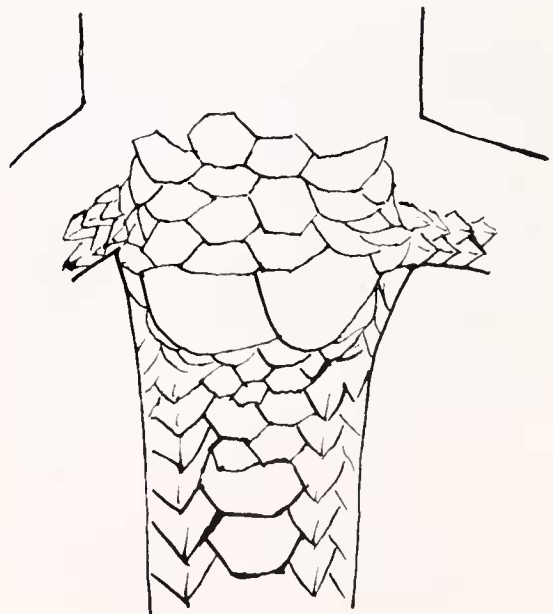


FIG. 5. Ventral view of anal and base of tail scutellation of the holotype (GMC 85-032).



FIG. 6. Type locality (dot) of *Tropidophorus guangxiensis* at Daming Shan ($23^{\circ} 23' N$ $108^{\circ} 30' E$), Wuming Xian (County), Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

longitudinal parts, longer than wide, suture of frontonasals longer than suture between prefrontals; prefrontals pentagonal, in contact with anterior and posterior loreals; frontal narrower posteriorly, length 1.44 times width at widest point, 1.4 times length of interparietal; frontoparietals pentagonal, broader posteriorly, in contact medially; interparietal slightly narrower posteriorly, rounded behind, separating parietal; parietal large, polygonal, border five shields on each side; supraoculars four, anterior two touching frontal; superciliaries eight, anterior two largest, first touching prefrontal; anterior loreal nearly rectangular, 1.2 times higher than wide; posterior loreal 1.1 times higher than broad; nasal undivided, 1.5 times wider than high, nostril opening just behind center; lower eyelid transparent (clouded), separated from supralabials by two rows of

granular scales; presubocular one; preocular small; postocular two; temporals majority, some striated or with keels; primary temporal large; supralabials eight, fifth longest, sixth highest; infralabials six, first longest; mental enlarged with labial border much greater than rostral; postmental undivided, pentagonal, wider than long; three pairs of chinshields, first in broad medial contact, posterior two separated by pregulars; body scales parallel on side of dorsum, dorsal scales slightly larger than lateral scales, imbricated, scales of first two rows following interparietal not keeled, sharply keeled with acute to normal points posteriorly by third row; scale rows around middle of body 29 (9 dorsal, 7/7 lateral, 6 ventral); 46 transverse rows between interparietal and rear edge of hindlimbs, 30 rows between forward edge of forelimbs and rear edge of hindlimbs; ventrals slightly

TABLE 1. Measurements (mm) of *Tropidophorus guangxiensis* sp.nov.

sex and measurements	GMC85-032	GMC85-029	GMC85-030
sex	unknown	male	male
snout-vent length	39.0	64.0	59.0
snout length	3.8	4.2	4.1
head length	9.0	12.0	11.2
head width	6.0	9.0	8.6
eye diameter	2.1	2.9	3.0
snout to ear length	9.2	11.0	11.5
internasal space	1.7	2.0	2.1
interorbital space	0.8	1.0	1.0
axilla to groin length	19.0	35.0	31.0
tail length	46.0	53.0*	44.0*
fore limb length	9.0	15.0	14.0
hind limb length	14.0	21.0	19.0

* tail regenerated.

larger than dorsals, smooth, 27 transverse rows between rear edge of forelimbs and preanal scales; preanal scales four, central two very large; supracaudals like dorsals, but keels forming continuous ridges; subcaudals strongly widened, smooth, in single row except anterior four rings, 13 scale rows encircle tail at level of tenth subcaudal, 58 scales in a longitudinal series; scales of fore- and hindlimbs keeled above and below as dorsal; finger lamellar formula 5-9-11-15-7, toe lamellar formula 6-8-13-17-12 on each side, terminal lamella tightly bound about claws; limbs adpressed along flank toes in contact with fingers.

Color in preservative.—Head rusty brown above and on side, with yellowish, blackish cloudy spots; dorsum brown with irregular cream transverse bands and spots from neck to middle of body, middle of body to base of tail pale (corneal epithelium

TABLE 2. Scutellation (Left/Right) of *Tropidophorus guangxiensis* sp.nov.

Scale counts	GMC85-032	GMC85-029	GMC85-030
upper labials	8/8	8/8	7/8
lower labials	6/6	6/7	6/6
super-cilliaris	8/8	8/8	8/8
mid-body scale rows	29	29	28
scale rows on 10th subcaudal	13	12	12
paravertebral scales	46	45	46

shed); tail-like torso, cream bands narrower, lost on posterior three fourth; limbs and digits marked in same manner as body; upper and lower labials black, each scale with white spot center; chin and throat dark brown with longitudinal greyish white stripes; venter yellowish white; underside of tail white, subcaudals darken on both sides forming longitudinal white stripes.

Habitat.—The species is restricted to high mountains where mixed forest is present. The specimens were collected under fallen, rotten wood beside a lumberman's domitory.

Variation.—The specimen, GMC 85-029, has an azygos shield between the frontonasals and the prefrontals; other characters are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Comparison.—This new species is similar to *T. sinicus* with the frontal entire, but differs from the latter in having the postmental undivided. It is similar to *T. thai* with the postmental single, but the frontal of *T. thai* is divided (Smith, 1935; Taylor, 1963; Tian and Jiang, 1986).

Literature Cited

- BOULENGER, G. A. 1887. Catalogue of the lizards in the British Museum (Natural History). Vol. III. London. 575 pp.
- SMITH, M. A. 1935. The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Reptilia and

- Amphibia. Vol. II- Sauria. Taylor and Francis, London, 440 pp.
- TAYLOR, E. H. 1963. The lizards of Thailand. Kansas University Science Bulletin 44:687-1077.
- TIAN, W., AND Y. JIANG, (eds.) 1986. Identification handbook of Chinese Amphibia and Reptilia. Science Press, Beijing. 164 pp. (In Chinese).